

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 09103 142318Z

72

ACTION ARA-20

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4682

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AR, US (HILL, ROBERT C.)

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENTS ON APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADOR HILL

1. SUMMARY: PREDICTABLY, THE LEFTIST PRESS OF ARGENTINA HAS BEGUN AN ATTACK ON THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT C. HILL AS NEXT US AMBASSADOR TO ARGENTINA. ATTACKS STRESS HIS CONNECTIONS WITH US FIRMS WITH LARGE HOLDINGS IN LATIN AMERICA AND HIS ROLE IN ALLEGED OVERTHROW BY "CIA TEAM" OF PRESIDENT ARBENZ OF GUATEMALA IN 1954. ARTICLE IN MODERATE PRESS ALSO NOTES HIS DIRECTORSHIPS IN FIRMS WITH BIG INVESTMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND RELATES HIS STOCK HOLDINGS TO QUESTIONING OF HIS PRESENT PENTAGON POST. END SUMMARY.

2. NEW FAR-LEFT DAILY EL MUNDO (EDITED BY CAMPORA'S FOREIGN MINISTER JUAN CARLOS PUIG AND UNDER SECRETARY JORGE VAZQUEZ, BOTH OF WHOM WERE LATER OUSTED FROM MINISTRY BY PERON), CARRIED FRONT PAGE CARTOON AND INSIDE ARTICLE DEC 12 WHICH POINTS UP HILL'S CONNECTIONS WITH UNITED FRUIT AND GRACE COMPANIES, SNIDELY DESCRIBES HIM AS AN EXPERT IN "DEFENDING WESTERN DEMOCRACY AND HIS OWN POCKETBOOK," AND STATES THAT HIS APPOINTMENT MEANS FOR ARGENTINA, AS IN VIETNAM, THE PLACING OF BOMBS AND THE MASSACRE OF PATRIOTIC YOUTH BY THE GRINGOS OPERATING THROUGH THEIR LOCAL LACKEYS.

3. MORE LENGTHY ARTICLE BY GREGORIO SELSER IN NEW LEFT-WING UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BUENOS 09103 142318Z

PERONIST PUBLICATION NOTICIAS, DEC 14, QUOTES FORMER AMBASSADOR

WILLAUER'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE IN 1961, AS DESCRIBED IN THE BOOK "THE INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT" BY DAVID WISE AND THOMAS B. ROSS (1964), WHICH LINKS HILL TO THE CIA OPERATIONS WHICH OVERTHREW PRESIDENT ARBENZ OF GUATEMALA IN 1954. ARTICLE CONCLUDES VENEMOUSLY, "WE SIMPLY NOTE, LASTLY, THAT... NOW WASHINGTON SENDS US A "HAWK" WHOSE MAJOR EXPLOIT WAS TO BELONG TO THE CIA TEAM WHICH SANK A CONSTITUTIONAL PRESIDENT AND WITH HIM A SISTER NATION OF THE CONTINENT." FINALLY, THE ARTICLE STATES THAT HILL'S PRESENT POSE OF BEING A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN READY TO SACRIFICE HIMSELF TO PUBLIC SERVICE IS ALL THE MORE SUSPICIOUS IN VIEW OF ALLEN DULLES' REPLACEMENT BY JOHN MCCONE AFTER THE BAY OF PIGS WHO IN TURN AFTER SOME YEARS OF "SACRIFICING HIMSELF" RESIGNED TO BECOME A VICE-PRESIDENT OF ITT AND IN THAT CAPACITY, ACCORDING TO THE BOOK "THE ITT DOCUMENTS" BY JACK ANDERSON, BORNE OUT BY THE HEARINGS HELD BY SENATOR CHURCH, TRIED TO OVERTHROW PRESIDENTS FREI AND ALLENDE OF CHILE IN LEAGUE WITH THE CIA.

4. A FOREWORD TO THE NOTICIAS ARTICLE STATES THAT THE CHOICE OF AN AMBASSADOR CUSTOMARILY BEARS A RELATION TO THE POLICY THAT IS TO BE APPLIED. NOTING THAT "THE OIL (SIC) EXECUTIVE, SPRUILLE BRADEN" IN 1945 REPRESENTED A US ATTITUDE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF ALBERT NUFER IN 1955, IT STATES THAT THESE REVELATIONS ABOUT HILL PERHAPS WILL SERVE TO REVEAL THE POLICY WHICH THE NIXON GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO PURSUE TOWARD THE THIRD GOVERNMENT OF JUAN PERON.

5. INDEPENDENT, MODERATE, HIGHLY RESPECTED LA NATION ON DEC 12 CARRIED AP WASHINGTON DATELINE STORY WHICH STATES THAT BECAUSE OF RECENT DECLINE IN STOCK PRICES, HILL, ACCORDING TO SOURCES CLOSE TO HIM, HAS NOT DIVESTED HIMSELF OF HIS HOLDINGS IN SIX COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS WITH THE PENTAGON, AS REQUIRED BY THE SENATE AT THE TIME OF HIS CONFIRMATION AS ASST SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, AND THAT HIS APPOINTMENT TO THAT POST WAS THEREFORE UNDER QUESTION. THIS ARTICLE ALSO REPORTED HIS BEING A DIRECTOR OF BOTH UNITED FRUIT AND GRACE COMPANY.

6. AS REPORTED IN USIS PRESS SUMMARIES, INITIAL PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE APPOINTMENT GAVE FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF HILL'S PREVIOUS STATE
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PAGE 03 BUENOS 09103 142318Z

DEPT AND DEFENSE DEPT POSITIONS, INCLUDING HIS FOUR AMBASSADORIAL POSTS.
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